

## Message Text

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53

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-25 DOTE-00 COME-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 L-03 FMC-04 DRC-01 /066 W

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R 231035Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4086

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS BOMBAY 2242

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ELAB, IN

SUBJ: INCREASE IN PORT DETENTION SURCHARGE

REF : (A) STATE 129110; (B) BOMBAY 2130

1. CONGESTION IN BOMBAY PORT CONTINUES AND WAITING PERIOD FOR VESSELS, 20 TO 25 DAYS IN AUGUST, NOW 30 TO 35 DAYS. BUNCHING OF VESSELS, INADEQUACY OF EQUIPMENT AND STORAGE SPACE, AND INTERMITTENT LABOR UNREST ARE MAIN CAUSES FOR CONGESTION. MONSOON RAINS, WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO CONGESTION IN AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, HAVE NOW STOPPED.

2. PORT AUTHORITIES ARE NOW CONDUCTING TALKS WITH UNIONS IN EFFORT INTRODUCE THREE-SHIFT WORKING IN DOCKS AS WAS CASE DURING INDO-PAKISTAN CONFLICT IN HOPE THIS WILL FACILITATE CLEARANCE OF BACKLOG, BUT UNIONS ARE ADAMANT AND ARE DEMANDING VERY HIGH COMPENSATION. ALSO, INTER-UNION RIVALRY PREVENTS AGREEMENT BETWEEN CONTENDING UNIONS.

3. ACCORDING TO LOCAL SHIPPING SOURCES, CONGESTION WILL NOT ABATE IN COMING WEEKS AS INCREASING NUMBER OF VESSELS INCLUDING FOODGRAIN AND FERTILIZER VESSELS ARE EXPECTED. THE FOODGRAIN AND FERTILIZER VESSELS HAVE PRIORITHHFOR BERTHING AND FIVE BERTHS IN PORT ARE RESERVED FOR THEM.

4. EEST COAST OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN/U.S.A. CONFERENCE  
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ANNOUNCED (SEE REF.B) 25 PERCENT SURCHARGE EFFECTIVE

NOVEMBER 24 AS IT IS OBLIGED TO GIVE ADVANCE NOTICE OF FREIGHT INCREASES UNDER CONFERENCE REGULATIONS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SURCHARGE WILL BE INCREASED TO 30 PERCENT EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 10 IS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE.

5. THE INDIA, PAKISTAN, CEYLON, BANGLADESH AND BURMA OUTWARD FREIGHT CONFERENCE, WITH HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK, HAS NOT YET ANNOUNCED A SURCHARGE ON OUTBOUND CARGOES TO BOMBAY PORT SINCE TWO INDIAN MEMBERS OF CONFERENCE (SHIPPING CORPORATION OF INDIA AND SCINDIA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY) ARE OPPOSED. HOWEVER, IF CONGESTION PERSISTS AND IF WAITING PERIOD INCREASES, IT IS EXPECTED THAT INDIAN MEMBERS WILL RELENT AND AN IMPOSITION OF SURCHARGE ON OUTBOUND CARGOES APPEARS CERTAIN.  
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## Message Attributes

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